

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM**



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TO: Public and Private Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: Joyce Burgett, Manager
Montana Immunization Program

DATE: December 27, 2007

SUBJECT: **Change in the Hib Vaccine Schedule and Orders for VFC-supplied Hib Vaccine**

As you know, on December 13, 2007, Merck issued a voluntary recall of ten lots of PedvaxHIB® and two lots of Comvax®. In addition, Merck has temporarily stopped production of PedvaxHIB® and Comvax® until at least the fourth quarter of 2008. This reduction in the production of Hib will affect the number of Hib doses available nationally.

Last week a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Dispatch (December 19, 2007 Vol. 56) was issued. This document contains information about the change in the Hib schedule.

In summary, the interim recommendations for Hib vaccine are as follows:

- Defer administering the routine Hib vaccine booster administered at age 12-15 months except for specified high-risk groups.
- Certain children at increased risk for Hib disease, including children with asplenia, sickle cell disease, human immunodeficiency virus infection, and certain other immunodeficiency syndromes, and malignant neoplasms should continue to receive the full routinely recommended schedule including the 12-15 month booster dose.
- American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) children should also continue to receive the full routinely recommended schedule including the 12-15 month booster dose. It is preferred that PedvaxHIB® be used on these children, if available.

In addition, if you are using 4 doses of PedvaxHIB® (3 doses for the primary series and 1 dose for the booster), please discontinue this practice. This is not the PedvaxHIB® schedule. When using PedvaxHIB® no more than 2 doses for the primary series should be used. Then 1 dose of either PedvaxHIB® or ActHIB® vaccine can be used for the booster dose (as noted above only high-risk groups will be receiving the booster dose at this time).

Vaccines for Children (VFC) Hib Supplies Going Forward

Until Merck resumes full production of Hib vaccine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be allocating Vaccines for Children (VFC) supplied Hib doses to states

one month at a time. Therefore, the MT Immunization Program will be closely monitoring VFC-supplied Hib vaccine and will be allocating doses on a monthly basis.

- Hib orders will be placed on behalf of clinics by the MT Immunization Program.
- Hib orders will be based on doses allocated by CDC and a clinic's end of the month inventory. The Monthly Vaccine Report due on the 5th of the month will be used to determine a clinic's inventory. It is critical that the report is in Butte by the 5th of the month in order for a clinic to receive Hib vaccine.
- During this shortage of Hib vaccine, do not borrow Hib from your private stock for use on VFC-eligible children and do not borrow VFC-supplied Hib for use on your private pay children. The availability of the vaccine is on a month-to-month basis and there is no guarantee that any extra doses to replace vaccine will be available. In addition, VFC-supplied vaccine needs to be available if a VFC-eligible child presents for immunizations. If you find you are running really short of Hib vaccine, please contact the MT Immunization Program. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

For all other vaccines, clinics should continue to order them according to their Vaccine Ordering Schedule. Please remember to complete the Doses on Hand column, whether that vaccine is being ordered or not.

Information regarding this recall and the changes in the Hib schedule are posted on our website at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Immunization/immune-index.shtml>.

If you have questions, please contact the Immunization Program at 444-5580. Thank you.

Enclosure: MMWR Dispatch (December 19, 2007 Vol. 56)